

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

VOL. 28

OCTOBER 1926

No. 7

---

THREE NEW TERMITOPHILOUS BEETLES FROM BRITISH  
GUIANA.

By W. M. MANN, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

A number of years ago Dr. Alfred Emerson sent me a large series of termitophiles which he collected in British Guiana. Only a small portion of these interesting beetles have been worked up. The following paper deals with descriptions of three of the new forms.

**PODUROIDES**, new genus.

Small, tapering little depressed species, with the pronotum and elytra somewhat expanded and thin at sides. Head nearly as broad as anterior border of pronotum, transversely oval, occipital angles rounded; in front of eyes obliquely receding. Eyes well developed, moderately convex. Clypeus transverse, straight at anterior border. Labrum transverse, feebly emarginate at middle of front, rounded at sides. Maxillae with outer lobe long and slender, inner lobe shorter and strongly setose on inner border. Maxillary palpi 4-jointed; second joint nearly as long as the third, slender basally and clavate at apex, third joint strongly enlarged, terminal joint slender, acuminate. Ligula elongate, excised apically to form two conical lobes. Labial palpi 3-jointed, first joint elongate, second transverse, third a little longer than the second and half as thick. Mandibles stout, acuminate, finely toothed near middle, prostheca elongate, well developed. Antennae 11-jointed, stout, basal joint broad and concave above, second joint broader than the third. Pronotum convex. Elytra moderately convex, strongly transverse. Abdomen evenly tapering, seven segments visible from above. Legs short, femora and tibiae rather strongly compressed, coxae contiguous, tarsi 4-4-4 jointed.

*Genotype*.—*Poduroides bövingi*, new species.

**Poduroides bövingi**, new species.

Length 1.25 mm.

Reddish brown, elytra, and antennae except the terminal joint, a little darker than the rest, terminal and penultimate joints of antennae yellow. Head and body finely punctate and covered with moderately abundant yellow pile which is exceedingly fine and short on the dorsum and longer on ventral surface of abdomen; brown, rather stiff, though fine, erect hairs sparse on head, thorax and elytra, more abundant on gaster where there are also sparse, fine, long, suberect yellow hairs; legs pilose; antennae very finely setose.

Head nearly twice as broad as long, vertex transversely convex, front flat,

clypeal region flat. Diameter of eyes greater than their distance to posterior border of head. Antennae about as long as head and thorax together, basal joint broader than the others, strongly depressed, with the upper surface distinctly concave; second joint transverse, the remainder forming a club, tapering at apex, joints 3-9 strongly transverse, 10 less than twice as broad as long, 11 connate, longer than broad but shorter than 9 and 10 together.

Pronotum convex, a little broader than long and a little broader behind than in front, anterior angles broadly and posterior more narrowly rounded, sides feebly arcuate, anterior border straight, posterior border arcuate at middle, concealing the scutellum. Elytra a little broader than pronotum and together more than twice as broad as long, broadest in front of middle, behind which the sides are nearly straight, anterior corners rounded, posterior corners subangulate, posterior margin nearly straight. Abdomen tapering, a little longer than head, thorax and elytra together.

*Type locality*.—Kartabo Point, British Guiana.

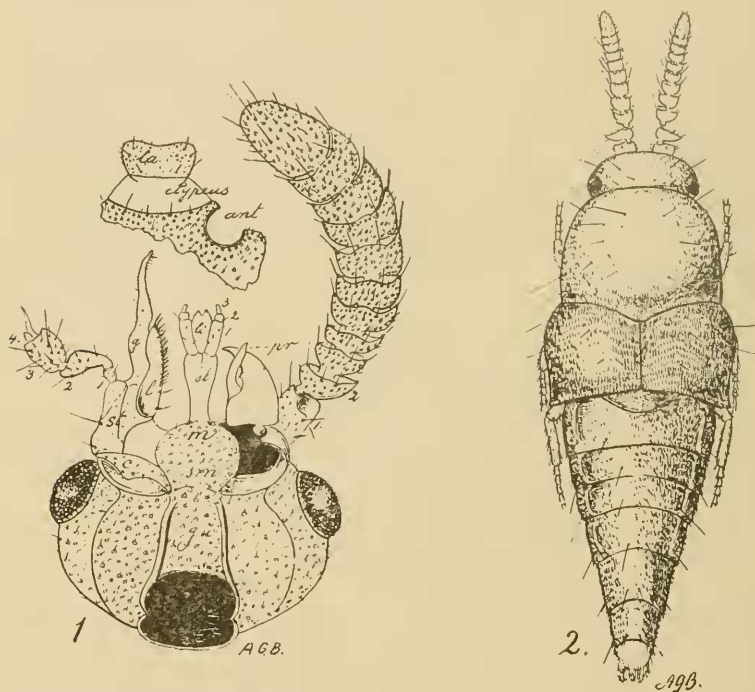


Fig. 1. *Poduroides bövingi* Mann. Head of adult, ventra view (ant.=antennal ring; c=cardo; g=galea; gu=gula; l=lacinia; la=labrum; li=ligula; m=mentum; pr=prostheca; sl=stipes labii; sm=submentum; st=stipes.

Fig. 2. *P. bövingi* Mann. Adult, dorsal view.

*Host*.—*Nasutitermes* (*Nasutitermes*) *gaigei* Emerson.

*Type and paratype*.—Cat. No. 29061 U. S. N. M.

Described from three specimens under Emerson number 163j; the type on a tag, one paratype on a slide, the other paratype in alcohol.

This genus from tarsal formula and structure of trophi belongs near the *Corotocini*, but is very distinct from the genera in that group in the structure of the antennae. The strongly sloping front of head, concealed by the broad, basal antennal joints makes it necessary to dissect the specimen to see even the form of the clypeus.

The habitus sketch and that of the details of the head were kindly drawn by Dr. Böving, to whom, in recognition of his studies in beetle anatomy, I dedicate the species.

Subfamily TACHYPORINAE.

### TERMITONICUS new genus.

Body depressed, broadest at elytra and base of abdomen, tapering behind. Head small, not concealed, much narrower than pronotum, subovate, surface flattened in front, convex behind, posterior border biconcave. Labrum transverse, convex, rounded at anterior border. Maxillary palpi small, second and third joints subequal in length and thickness, the second clavate and curved, the third subcylindrical, terminal joint thick and very short. Mandible stout basally, slender and acuminate at tip. Labial palpi 3-jointed, basal joint thick, second and third joints subequal. Ligula long, slender, bifid, the tips conical. Antennae 11-jointed, slender, only slightly thickened toward apex, longer than head and thorax, not geniculate, all joints longer than broad. Eyes well developed. Pronotum broad, convex, the sides arcuately expanded as thin lamellae. Elytra very broad, with median portion convex and sides broadly expanded. Abdomen broad basally, evenly narrowed behind, in profile thickest in front of middle, more convex above than beneath; sides broadly margined, the marginal line distinctly impressed but very narrow; 7 segments visible. Legs short, femora flattened, tibiae slender, tarsi 4-4-4 jointed, basitarsi not longer than second joint; coxae approximate.

*Genotype*.—*Termitonicus mahout*, new species.

### *Termitonicus mahout*, new species.

Length 1.75 mm.

Dark reddish brown, shining; sparsely, finely and shallowly punctate. Brownish erect hairs sparse on thorax, elytra and antennae, absent on head, except labrum, and on legs except a pair on anterior trochanters; abdomen with exceedingly fine, short, recumbent yellow pubescence.

Head a little longer than broad, front flat, vertex convex, sides behind eyes evenly arcuate to posterior border; clypeus short, truncate anteriorly. Eyes moderately convex, shorter than their distance to occipital angles. First antennal joint about as long as second and third joints together, rather slender, its apex twice as broad as the base, second joint two-thirds as long as the third,

remaining joints longer than broad, decreasing in length toward apex, terminal joint conical, shorter than the two preceding together.

Pronotum more than two times as broad as head, anterior border emarginate; sides, anterior and posterior angles strongly arcuate, posterior border at middle broadly rounded. Elytra individually much broader than long, together nearly twice as broad as pronotum, sides arcuate, posterior corners subangulate, border broadly emarginate. Abdomen at base nearly as wide as elytra, sides convergent, nearly straight.

*Type locality*.—Kartabo, British Guiana (Emerson).

*Host*.—*Nasutitermes (Velocitermes) beebei* Emerson.

*Type and paratypes*.—Cat. No. 29062 U. S. N. M.

Described from four tag-mounted specimens (one type) and one slide-mounted specimen taken by Dr. Emerson, and bearing his number 389. Dr. Emerson has prepared a figure of the species to publish with notes on its biology.

*Termitonicus*, from the position of the antennal insertions, the structure of the thorax, with the spiracles exposed, and the arrangement of the coxae, comes in the Tachyporinae, but can be assigned to none of the known groups, the 4-jointed tarsi not conforming to those characters of other groups than the Hypocypti and the 11-jointed antennae separating it from that group.

The depressed and broad triangular abdomen, the form of the expanded pronotum and elytra are distinctive.

#### Tribe BOLITOCHARINI.

##### Group *Leptusae*.

#### **TERMITOSPECTRUM**, new genus.

Small, robust species, somewhat resembling *Philoterme*s, with pronotum expanded laterally and moderately physogastric. Head depressed, excluding labrum, transverse, broad posteriorly, the front and vertex shallowly concave. Labrum longer than broad and narrowly rounded at anterior margin, surface convex. Mentum quadrangular, submentum long and narrow. Ligula projecting as an elongate, simple, subcylindrical process. Labial palpi 3-jointed, second joint shorter and very slightly broader than the third, which is about two times as long as broad.

Mandibles slender, arcuate, simple. Maxillae with outer lobe very long and slender, slightly thickened apically.

Maxillary palpi 4-jointed, first joint very small, second slender at basal half, clavate anteriorly, about half as thick as the third which is elongate-oval and a little longer than the second, fourth small, subulate. Antennal fossae small. Antennae 11-jointed, basal joint thickly ovate, shorter than second and third joints together, second joint distinctly longer than broad, constricted at base, joints 3-10 submoniliform, those on the basal half less rounded than those apically, terminal joint ovate, shorter than joints 9-10 together.

Eyes large, convex.

Pronotum transverse, sides produced laterally as broad, very thin lamellae, robust and strongly convex above and concave beneath, separated from the discal portion by heavy diagonal furrows, posterior border narrowly lamellate. Elytra distinctly narrower than thorax, together much broader than long, humeri subgibbous, sides feebly arcuate, posterior angles narrowly rounded, posterior border strongly emarginate. Scutellum short and broad. Abdomen a little wider than pronotum, broadest basally, narrowed and rounded apically, sides arcuate, convex above and strongly convex beneath, roundly margined at sides, carried elevated. Mesosternum finely carinate between coxae, posterior margin projecting and rounded between metasternal coxae.

Legs rather stout, femora and middle and posterior tibiae moderately compressed. Tarsi 4-4-5 jointed, basitarsi shorter than the other joints together.

*Genotype*.—*Termitospectrum thoracicum*, new species.

***Termitospectrum thoracicum*, new species.**

Length 1.60 mm.

Pale reddish brown, front of head, margins of pronotum, tips of elytra and the appendages yellow-brown. Head, thorax and elytra shallowly cribrate-punctate. Hairs yellow in color, on dorsal surface sparse, on front of head more abundant, fine and erect, on ventral surface and appendages abundant, longer and coarser.

Head broadly rounded at sides posterior to eyes, the hind border fitting the deeply emarginate anterior border of pronotum. Pronotum about twice as broad as head, excluding eyes, anterior angles of margin produced as rounded lobes and separated from the remainder of margin by a shallow, oblique impression.

*Type locality*.—Kartabo Point, Kartabo, British Guiana.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 29063 U. S. N. M.

*Host*.—*Nasutitermes* (*Nasutitermes*) *gaigei* Emerson.

There is some superficial resemblance to the genus *Philotermes*, but *Termitospectrum* is distinct from this genus in the structure of the pronotum, the greatly elongate labrum, its moniliform antennae and tapering abdomen.

Described from two specimens, the type bearing A. Emerson number 163j and definitely associated with the above host; the paratype under Emerson number 390 and believed to be associated with the same host but found in a nest which was secondarily used by *Nasutitermes gaigei* and *Nasutitermes beebei* Emerson.

---